

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: NAC JUNE 28, 1974: AD HOC GROUP BRIEFING ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. MBFR VIENNA 115; B. STATE 135640; C. MBFR VIENNA 54;
D. USNATO 3099; E. USNATO 3479; F. STATE 127307

BEGIN SUMMARY: AHG REPS BRIEFED NAC JUNE 28 ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. STATEMENT BY AHG SPOKESMAN (ROSE) GENERALLY
FOLLOWED REPORT IN REF A. DISCUSSION LARGEMLY CONCERNED EASTERN
MODIFICATION OF ITS "FIRST REDUCTION STEP" PROPOSAL. SYG AND
NAC MEMBERS NOTED SPEC PROGRESS ON PHASE II ASSURANCES AND
PROBABLE EARLY NAC GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. AHG REPS BRIEFED NAC JUNE 28 ON DEVELOPMENTS IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
SINCE LAST AHG BRIEFING ON MAY 31. ROSE (UK) WAS SPOKESMAN,
ASSISTED BY BEHRENDS (UK) AND DOUNTAS (GREECE).

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2. LUNS BEGAN DISCUSSION BY STRESSING THAT AHG NEEDS NAC GUIDANCE
ON SIGNAL TO THE OTHER SIDE THAT NON-U.S. ALLIED DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS WILL REDUCE IN PHASE II. HE SAID SPC MADE GOOD
PROGRESS ON THIS QUESTION AT JUNE 27 MEETING AND HOPED FOR EARLY
NAC DECISION. NATO WOULD CONTINUE WORK ON OTHER AHG NEEDS IN COMING

WEEKS.

3.49 3'S STATEMENT GENERALLY FOLLOWED REPORT IN REF A. HE ADDED A FEW REMARKS ON THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE INFORMALS, WHERE AHG NEGOTIATORS, STARTING FROM PREVIOUSLY AGREED GUIDLINES, ENGAGE IN WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH EAST, TO PROBE EASTERN POSITIONS. INSTEAD OF ASKING NEW GUIDANCE ON DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE", PER PARA 4 (IV) OF REF A, HE ASKED FOR IT "REASONABLY SOON." HE ALSO INFORMED THE NAC THE AHG IS CONSIDERING A PAPER ON DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, WHICH IT HOPES TO TRANSMIT TO NAC NEXT WEEK. HE SAID AHG WILL MAKE NEXT PLENARY STATEMENT ON STABILIZING MEASURES, BUT AHG WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO INTO SUBSTANCE ANY MORE THAN AT LAST DISCUSSION.

4. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) COMPLIMENTED AHG FOR REPORT SO COMPLETE IT LEFT LITTLE ROOM FOR QUESTIONS. HE HAD WONDERED IF JUNE 18 EASTERN MODIFICATION OF "FIRST REDUCTION STEP" TO PERMIT SOME PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE LATER THAN OTHERS MIGHT CONSTITUTE A SMALL STEP TOWARD NOT ONLY PHASING BUT ALSO COMMON CEILING. ROSE'S REPORT HAD REMOVED ANY ILLUSIONS HE AHD ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. ROSE RESPONDED THAT THE EAST STILL REJECTS COMMON CEILING, AND ONE CANNOT READ INTO KHlestov's JUNE 18 STATEMENT ANY VIWWINGNESS TO CONSIDER IT. ROSE NOTED PRESENT CONCENTRATION IN VIENNA ON ISSUE OF WHO WILL REDUCE FROM OUTSET. WHEN NEGOTIATORS GET TO SCOPE OF REDUCTIONS IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT. SOME AHG NEGOTIATORS BELIEVE BEST WAY TO LEAD INTO COMMON CEILING IS THROUGH RE-DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, THE SUBJECT OF REPORT AHG HOPES TO SEND TO NAC NEXT WEEK. BEHRENDS ADDED THAT THE JUNE 18 MODIFICATION IN THE EASTERN POSITION DOES INDICATE SOME EASTERN FLEXIBILITY REGARDING SPECIAL POSITION OF SOVIET UNION AND U.S. IT DOES CALL FOR STAGGERED IMPLEMENTATION, BUT NOT STAGGERED COMMITMENTS.

6. BUWALDA (NETHERLANDS) NOTED IMPORTANCE OF COMMON CEILING
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TO WESTERN POSITION, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF IT IS A "RED RAG" FOR THE EAST, AS ROSE CALLED IT, PERHAPS WE SHOULD CHANGE ITS NAME. HE ALSO SAID THE SPC HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS ON SIGNAL TO THE OTHER SIDE ON NON-U.S. ALLIED REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II, AND THOUGHT SPC SHOULD BE ABLE TO APPROVE FINAL GUIDANCE MONDAY JULY 1, WITH NAC APPROVAL LATER IN THE WEEK, SO AHG WOULD HAVE IT IN PLEANTY OF TIME FOR JULY 9 INFORMAL.

7. ROSE REPLIED THAT AT END OF NEGOTIATION WEST WILL HAVE TO DROP TERM "COMMON CEILING," BUT THE TERM HAS TOO STRONG A PUBLIC RELATIONS APPEAL TO DROP IT NOW. AHG USES IT IN PLENARY STATEMENTS, BUT IN INFORMALS SOMETIMES USES CIRCUMLOCUTIONS SUCH AS "APPROXIMATE PARITY OF GROUND FORCES." RE NAC GUIDANCE ON PAHSE II ASSURANCES, ROSE SAID SCENE NEEDS TO DEVELOP A LITTLE MORE AT JULY 2 INFORMAL SO INTRODUCTION OF SIGNAL ON

PHASE II ASSURANCES WILL LOOK LIKE FINAL WESTERN ATTEMPT THIS SESSION AT FINDING MIDDLE GROUND.

8. MENZIES (CANADA) ASKED IF OTHER SIDE HAD GIVEN ANY HINT THAT SOMETHING MIGHT DEVELOP FROM PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. HE NOTED THAT SOMETIMES IMPORTANT VISITS STIMULATE THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS WITHIN THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY. ROSE SAID THE OTHER SIDE HAD CONSISTENTLY DENIED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN PROGRESS IN MBFR AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, BEHRENDT SAID THERE WAS AN INDICATION FROM THE POLES THAT EASTERN FLEXIBILITY AT JUNE 18 INFORMAL WAS PARTLY IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, IN AN INDIRECT EFFORT TO IMPRESS HIM.

9. RUMSFELD (US) ASKED WHETHER AHG PLANS A PRESS BRIEFING TOWARD END OF PRESENT SESSION, AND WHAT POINTS IT MIGHT EMPHASIZE. HE NOTED THAT ALLIES HAVE RECEIVED A GOOD PRESS ON MBFR, THANKS TO AHG PRESS BRIEFINGS. ROSE SAID AHG INTENDS TO HAVE PRESS BRIEFING IMMEDIATELY AFTER JUNE 18 PLENARY. THERE IS QUITE A LOT OF NEGOTIATING BETWEEN NOW AND THEN, BUT AHG WILL PROBABLY WANT TO SPEAK ALONG LINES OF GRANDE'S JUNE 20 PLENARY STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT WEST IS SEEKING TO CLARIFY EASTERN POINTS, AS WELL AS WESTERN FLEXIBILITY DURING CURRENT SESSION. AHG WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT TO GO MUCH FURTHER THAN THAT, AND IS CONSCIOUS OF NEED NOT TO TALK ABOUT INFORMAL SESSIONS IN ORDER TO RETAIN THEIR USEFULNESS.

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10. NEXT AHG BRIEFING OF NAC SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, JULY 26.

11. MISSION COMMENT: AHG REPORT TO NAC, IN PARA 4(IV-V) HAS EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING WORK IN NATO ON DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, FLANK SECURITY AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND VERIFICATION MEASURES.

12. MISSION HAS ASSUMED, BASED ON REFS B AND C, THAT RE-DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES WOULD BE WORKED OUT AS TACTICAL MATTER IN VIENNA. MISSION SUPPORTS LATTER COURSE, AND BELIEVES AHG REQUEST FOR NEW GUIDANCE COULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF ALLIES WHO MAY WISH TO DEBATE IMPLICATIONS OF RE-DEFINING GROUND FORCES, AND BY EXTENSION USE OF NEW DATA. AS WASHINGTON AWARE, WE HAVE RESISTED ANY SUGGESTION THAT ALLIES STUDY IMPLICATIONS AT THIS TIME. THIS COULD CAUSE DELAY IN GETTING NEW GUIDANCE TO AHG.

13. MISSION DESCRIBED PRESENT STATE OF PLAY ON FLANK SECURITY IN REFS D AND E. IT IS NOW NEARLY THREE MONTHS SINCE WE INTRODUCED U.S. FORMULATIONS INTO SPC AND THE FLANK COUNTRIES CONSIDER THEM INSUFFICIENT. IF WASHINGTON WISHES NAC TO ACCOMMODATE AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON THE FLANK QUESTION, MISSION BELIEVES WE WILL NEED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. SAME IS TRUE IF NAC IS TO FULFILL AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION (PARA 31). RE AHG REQUEST FOR NAC GUIDANCE ON VERIFICATION, MISSION SHALL BE GUIDED BY REF F, IN ABSENCE OF ADDITIONAL INSTRU-

TIONS.

RUMSFELD.

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